

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
SSM-05 SS-15 /070 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. COLLUMS
NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER
-----008092 301401Z /44

O 301307Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 152329

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JUNE 29

1.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR JUNE 29,
1977:

Q. THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL YESTERDAY ISSUED A STATEMENT
SAYING THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD NO BASIS FOR ITS
ASSUMPTION ON WHICH MONDAY'S STATEMENT WAS MADE. I
WONDER, IN THE LIGHT OF THAT STATEMENT, IF YOU CAN
SPECIFICALLY CITE WHICH STATEMENTS BY ISRAELI LEADERS
PROMPTED THAT STATEMENT ON MONDAY.

A. I'M REALLY AT THIS POINT NOT PREPARED TO CARRY THIS
DIALOGUE ANY FURTHER.
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Q. WOULD THAT APPLY TO THE REMARK MADE BY FORMER PRIME
MINISTER RABIN THAT --

A. AT THIS POINT I'M REALLY NOT PREPARED TO GO ANY
FURTHER WITH THE DISCUSSION. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO
MR. BEGIN'S VISIT HERE IN TWO WEEKS.

Q. CAN WE EXPECT NO OTHER STATEMENT BEFORE MR. BEGIN
COMES HERE?

A. I THINK THAT WE CAN GO FROM DAY TO DAY AND YOU CAN
ASK ME EVERY DAY AND WE WILL SEE WHAT DEVELOPS.

Q. SOMETIME OVER THE WEEKEND -- AND MAYBE THIS HAS BEEN
COVERED; MAYBE YOU'VE REACTED TO THIS -- PRESIDENT ASSAD
OF SYRIA SAID THAT HE SUCCESSFULLY IGNORED SOME HALF
DOZEN STATE DEPARTMENT ADMONITIONS ABOUT INTERVENING IN
LEBANON. I THINK HE ALSO SAID IN THE SAME NEWS STORY THAT
THE UNITED STATES HAD FOMENTED THE CIVIL WAR IN LEBANON.
HAVE YOU ANY COMMENTS ON PRESIDENT ASAD?

A. NO. I SAW THAT -- I SAW THOSE REPORTS. I DON'T HAVE
ANY COMMENTS ON THEM.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE CURRENT STATE OF
LEBANON'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY? DOES IT EXIST, AND DO
YOU HAVE --

A. WE ARE COMMITTED TO ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

Q. I KNOW YOU ARE.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY HOPES THAT SYRIA WILL PULL ITS TROOPS OUT?

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A. WE HAVE HOPES THAT LEBANON WILL -- AS WE HAVE SAID ALL ALONG -- BE ABLE TO ASSERT ITS CONTROL OVER ITS ENTIRE TERRITORY AND THAT PEACE AND STABILITY AND THE INTEGRITY OF THAT COUNTRY CAN BE BROUGHT INTO PLAY.

Q. WELL, ARE THE TROOPS PROVIDING A CERTAIN ELEMENT OF STABILITY TO LEBANON?

A. WE'VE REALLY WALKED THROUGH THIS, AND I WILL REFER YOU TO ALL THE STATEMENTS MADE BEFORE ON THIS SAME SUBJECT. THERE'S NOTHING CHANGED ON IT.

Q. THE ONLY THING THAT'S CHANGED IS THAT THE TROOPS ARE STILL IN LEBANON.

A. YES, THAT'S RIGHT -- WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN FOR SOME TIME.

Q. THEN YOU'RE HAPPY. I MEAN, YOU'RE SATISFIED WITH THE SITUATION?

A. I WOULD SAY THAT WE WILL BE SATISFIED WHEN PEACE COMES TO LEBANON AND IN A SITUATION IN WHICH THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF LEBANON IS RESPECTED.

Q. HAVE YOU RECEIVED ANY OFFICIAL WORD FROM VIENNA ON THE OPEC ANNOUNCEMENT THERE; AND, IF SO, DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION?

A. I DON'T HAVE AN OFFICIAL WORD ON IT. WE'VE SEEN THE PRESS REPORTS. WE'RE AWAITING SOME KIND OF OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION ON THEM. I WON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT UNTIL THEN. I'M NOT SUGGESTING I'LL HAVE ANY COMMENT THEN, BUT
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IN ANY CASE AT THIS POINT ALL WE HAVE IS A PRESS REPORT.

Q. YESTERDAY I ASKED IF YOU WOULD CHECK THE FILES TO SEE IF ANY ARAB LEADERS HAVE PUBLICLY SAID (THEY WOULD SIGN A PEACE TREATY), AND YOU HAVE GIVEN US AN ANSWER. CAN I

ASSUME THIS IS ALL YOU CAN FIND AND THIS IS THE EXTENT OF YOUR EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT ATHERTON THAT ARAB LEADERS HAVE SAID THAT THEY'RE WILLING TO SIGN A PEACE TREATY WITH ISRAEL?

A. I WOULD SAY THAT IS WHAT WAS FOUND IN TIME FOR POSTING TODAY.

Q. WHAT YOU GAVE US FOR JORDAN IS THAT MONDALE SAID THAT HUSSEIN ONCE REFERRED TO A "JUST AND LASTING PEACE." WELL, A LOT OF PEOPLE REFER TO A JUST AND LASTING PEACE. I'M LOOKING FOR ANY EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S PUBLIC COMMENTS THAT A NUMBER OF ARAB LEADERS HAVE SAID PRIVATELY, AS WELL AS PUBLICLY THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO SIGN A PEACE TREATY WITH ISRAEL.

I DON'T SEE THAT HERE. I SEE SOMETHING FROM SADAT THAT COMES PRETTY CLOSE AND THAT'S ABOUT IT. SO I WONDER IF YOU CAN PLURALIZE IT OR AT LEAST -- OR SAY SIMPLY THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF THAT AND HE MISSPOKE.

A. NO. I DON'T THINK I CAN DO EITHER ONE. I THINK WHAT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DO IS TO GO WITH THE POSTED REPLY ON THIS. IF YOU WANT --

Q. WELL, IT CITES THE SINAI AGREEMENT.

A. YES.

Q. I SURE KNOW ABOUT THE SINAI AGREEMENT. I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU HAD SOMETHING PRIVATE THAT YOU COULD TELL US UNCLASSIFIED

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BECAUSE I DON'T FIND THINGS ON THE PUBLIC RECORD.

A. YES. I GUESS, AS USUAL, WITH MOST PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS -- DIPLOMATIC CONVERSATIONS -- THAT WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO SHARE THEM INsofar AS THE SPECIFICS GO. IF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAID THAT, THEN I WILL LET THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S WORDS STAND FOR THEMSELVES.

IF YOU WISH US TO RESEARCH SOME MORE ON THE PUBLIC RECORD AND WOULD NOT BE AS INTERESTED IN THE IMMEDIATE TIMEFRAME, IT MAY BE THAT WE CAN FIND SOME OF THOSE REPORTS.

Q. YES. I JUST WONDERED AT WHICH POINT I CAN CONCLUDE THAT THIS IS THE EXTENT OF THE EVIDENCE THAT MR. ATHERTON HAD TO CLAIM THAT A NUMBER OF ARAB LEADERS HAVE PRIVATELY, AS WELL AS PUBLICLY, ADVISED THE UNITED STATES THAT THEY ARE READY TO SIGN A PEACE TREATY WITH ISRAEL. AND I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE; I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT AN END TO HOSTILITIES AND ALL SUCH --

YOU KNOW, ALL SUCH CIRCUMLOCUTIONS. I'M TALKING ABOUT A SIMPLE PEACE TREATY.

A. YES. AND I THINK THE ANSWER IS THAT THAT IS THE POLICY ANSWER AT THIS POINT.

Q. THERE'S WORD OUT OF A CAIRO BROADCAST THIS MORNING THAT THE EGYPTIANS ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL WITHIN SIX MONTHS AFTER NEGOTIATIONS START. ALSO, THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN CAIRO WAS TALKING ABOUT THE CONFERENCE TO BE HELD SOMETIME THIS FALL. CAN YOU CONFIRM OR DENY OR SAY ANYTHING EITHER ONE OF THOSE THINGS?

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A. NO.

Q. IS THE EMBASSY IN CAIRO SPEAKING OUT OF TURN?

A. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THE EMBASSY IN CAIRO IS REALLY SAYING. IF I'M SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE EACH PRESS REPORT THAT I READ, YOU AND I BOTH WILL BE CHASING MICE IN EVERY HOLE IN THE COUNTRY.

Q. WELL, I AGREE WITH THAT; BUT ALSO, SINCE IT'S A REPORT CONCERNING AN EMBASSY, THEN THE STATE DEPARTMENT OUGHT TO BE AWARE OF IT; AND I JUST THINK --

A. I'M CONFIDENT WE'RE AWARE OF THE REPORT.

Q. YOU HAVEN'T CHECKED WITH THE EMBASSY, HAVE YOU?

A. I WOULD SIMPLY SAY TO YOU THAT IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A GENEVA CONFERENCE IS GOING TO COME FROM THE OBVIOUS PLACE, WHICH IS RIGHT HERE.

Q. OH, THE UNITED STATES IS GOING TO ANNOUNCE WHETHER OR NOT THERE'LL BE A GENEVA CONFERENCE?

A. I WAS SAYING THAT AS ONE OF THE TWO CO-CONVENORS AND CO-CHAIRMEN OF IT, IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THAT WOULD COME FROM HERE THAN FROM AN EMBASSY OR FROM ANOTHER SUBSIDIARY OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

Q. ALL RIGHT. NOW, WHAT ABOUT THE EGYPTIAN POINT OF VIEW?

A. WHAT ABOUT IT?

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Q. WELL, THAT THEY SAID THAT THE ISRAELIS SHOULD START WITHDRAWING SIX MONTHS AFTER NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN.

A. I DON'T KNOW THAT THEY SAID IT. I NOTE YOU SAY THAT THEY SAID IT, THAT YOU SAW A PRESS REPORT THAT THEY SAID IT. I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT IT. I HAVE NO COMMENT ON IT.

Q. ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT DIDN'T HEAR THE CBS BROADCAST THIS MORNING AT 9 O'CLOCK?

A. I'M TELLING YOU THAT WE HAVE NO COMMENT ON THAT PRESS REPORT.

Q. YOU HAVE NO COMMENT, BUT ARE YOU GOING TO LOOK INTO IT? WILL YOU SAY SOMETHING ABOUT IT? WILL YOU ISSUE A STATEMENT LIKE YOU DID ON MONDAY?

A. WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO IS CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. LIKE PRESSING ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN? IS THAT THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE --

A. WHAT WE'RE REALLY GOING TO TRY TO DO IS TO FIND A SOLUTION, OR TO HELP THE PARTIES AGREE ON A SOLUTION.

Q. ALL RIGHT. NOW, LET ME TAKE YOU BACK THEN TO SOME-
THING ELSE. I ASKED YOU ON FRIDAY, I BELIEVE, OR
EARLIER, ABOUT THE -- LET ME ASK YOU THIS: YOU SAY YOU'RE
NOT MAKING ANY COMMENT. YOU'RE NOT PURSUING THE DIALOGUE
ANY FURTHER WITH REFERENCE TO THE DISCUSSION BETWEEN
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ISRAELI LEADERS AND THE ADMINISTRATION. IS THAT RIGHT?

A. THAT'S WHAT I SAID TODAY, THAT'S CORRECT.

Q. AND THIS WILL LAST UNTIL TOMORROW WHEN THE
PRESIDENT HOLDS HIS PRESS CONFERENCE CONFERENCE -- IS THAT
RIGHT -- OR IS THIS ONLY APPLYING TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT
ALONE?

A. THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AS I UNDERSTAND
IT, IS THE CHIEF SPOKESMAN FOR FOREIGN POLICY FOR THIS
COUNTRY.

Q. THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT.

A. HE'S ALSO ENTRUSTED BY THE CONSTITUTION WITH PROPOSING CERTAIN POLICIES AND REPORTING TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. WHAT HE MAY DO TOMORROW AFTERNOON IS ENTIRELY UP TO HIM, NOT FOR THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

Q. THE ONLY THING I'M ASKING IS THAT WHEN YOU MAKE STATEMENTS ABOUT ONE PARTY TO THE DIFFICULTY WE ASSUME THAT ON THE BASIS OF SHEER PRINCIPLE AND HONESTY THAT YOU WOULD SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THE OTHER SIDE -- WHICH THIS DEPARTMENT HAS NOT DONE.

I'M ASKING YOU NOW WHETHER THE ASAD COMMENTS THAT HE WILL NOT RECOGNIZE ISRAEL, REGARDLESS OF WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAEL, IS A FAIR BASIS FOR YOU TO COMMENT IN RESPECT TO SYRIA.

A. I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THAT.

Q. YOU HAVE NO COMMENT ON THE EGYPTIANS?

A. I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THE PRESS REPORTS THAT YOU UNCLASSIFIED

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HAVE JUST CITED.

Q. AND YOU HAVE NO FURTHER EVIDENCE, SINCE THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT IN MARCH, ABOUT THE MINOR ADJUSTMENTS IN TERRITORY AND SO ON AND PEACE TERMS -- WAS THAT IN CLINTON? -- AS TO NEGATIVE REACTION FROM THE ARABS ON THIS?

A. I DIDN'T FOLLOW THE QUESTION. I'M SORRY.

Q. WELL, SINCE THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS AT CLINTON, THERE HAS BEEN NO COMMENT FROM THE ARABS WHICH WOULD SUPPORT ANYTHING REGARDING THE PEACE TERMS THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS LAID DOWN, BUT I HAVE SEEN NO CRITICISM OF THE ARAB GOVERNMENTS ON THIS POINT. WHY NOT?

A. I THINK THERE IS ONLY ONE PART OF WHAT YOU JUST SAID THAT I WANT TO COMMENT ON. WE ARE NOT LAYING DOWN TERMS FOR PEACE. WE ARE SUGGESTING SOME OF THE AREAS IN WHICH WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO HAVE MOTION IF THERE IS GOING TO BE A PEACE BETWEEN THE PARTIES. WE DON'T HAVE THE TERMS FOR PEACE FOR ANYBODY.

Q. WHAT IS THE AMERICAN ROLE IN LEBANON'S PRESENT SITUATION?

A. OURS HAS BEEN, AND IS WHAT IT HAS BEEN ALL ALONG, WHICH IS THE ROLE OF A PARTY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION WHICH WANTS TO INSURE THAT ALL THOSE CONCERNED

UNDERSTAND FULLY WHAT THE PLANS AND INTENTIONS AND POSITIONS OF THE OTHER PARTIES ARE. THAT IS OUR MAIN ROLE.

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Q. IS THE U.S. CONSIDERING A MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE LEBANESE ARMY?

A. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. WELL, COULD YOU FIND OUT?

A. I WILL BE GLAD TO ASK. I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN GET YOU SOMETHING ON IT.

Q. WERE THE SOVIETS ADVISED IN ADVANCE OF THE STATEMENT YOU MADE MONDAY ABOUT ISRAEL?

A. NO.

Q. AND HAVE YOU HAD ANY REACTION FROM THE SOVIETS OR FROM THE ARAB STATES THAT YOU CAN TELL US ABOUT TO THAT STATEMENT?

A. I DON'T KNOW OF A REACTION FROM THE SOVIETS. I READ SOMETHING. DO YOU MEAN OFFICIAL REACTION THAT WOULD COME THROUGH CHANNELS?

A. I SAW ONE THING WHICH I THINK ALL OF YOU SAW, WHICH WAS A SUGGESTION FROM THEM THAT THIS WAS FAIRLY WEAK TEA, AND THAT IT REALLY DIDN'T OBSCURE OUR OBVIOUS COMING DOWN ON THE SIDE OF ISRAEL. AS I RECALL, THAT WAS THE COMMENTARY FROM THE SOVIET SIDE.

Q. SPEAKING OF THE SOVIET UNION, WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE TALKS, THE CONSULTATIONS THAT WERE TO BE HELD BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION ON THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. THOSE CONSULTATIONS, I AM SURE, AGAIN, WILL BOTH BE A FUNCTION WHEN THE TWO FOREIGN MINSITERS MEET, THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE MEET IN UNCLASSIFIED

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SEPTEMBER WHEN THEY WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO NOT ONLY GO OVER THE SALT SITUATION BUT ALSO TO GO OVER OUR JOINT ROLE IN RECONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

OTHER THAN THAT, I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FOR YOU AS FAR AS A FORMAL, CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM, IF THAT IS

WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT.

Q. WEREN'T THESE TO BE MONTHLY MEETINGS?

A. I BELIEVE THAT THE LEVEL AT WHICH DISCUSSIONS WHICH MIGHT BE ON-GOING, WASN'T SET QUITE THAT FORMALLY. I HAVD A FEELING THAT THERE ARE DISCUSSIONS FROM TIME TO TIME IN WHICH WE KEEP OURSELVES, KEEP EACH OTHER, INFORMED ON HOW WE VIEW EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. I THOUGHT THE SECRETARY SAID THAT THEY WOULD BE ON A MONTHLY BASIS.

A. YES. WELL, I NOTICE THAT FROM TIME TO TIME WE HAVE DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS, PHYSICAL AND OTHERWISE, WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US THE LAST TIME WHEN WE DISCUSSED THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. NO.

Q. WELL, COULD YOU LET US KNOW WHEN THE NEXT ONE IS THAT THEY WILL DISCUSS THE MIDDLE EAST? I MEAN, HE MADE IT OUT AS IF IT WAS A --

A. WHEN DID HE SAY THAT, IN MAY?
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Q. THIS WAS IN GENEVA.

A. IN GENEVA, YES. SURE, I WILL.

Q. HAVE THEY EVER MET?

A. HAVE WHO? GROMYKO?

Q. HAVE THESE MONTHLY TALKS -- HAS THE FIRST MEETING OF A SERIES OF MONTHLY TALKS BEEN HELD YET?

A. YOU MEAN, DID WE DISCUSS THE MIDDLE EAST WITH THEM AT ALL SINCE THEY MET?

Q. SINCE GENEVA.

Q. WELL, IT IS NOT JUST DISCUSSED. IT WAS ADVERTISED AS HIGH LEVEL MONTHLY TALKS. AND I WONDERED IF THERE HAS BEEN A HIGH LEVEL MONTHLY TALK OR ANY TALK ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST WITH THE SOVIETS SINCE YOU ADVERTISED THERE WOULD BE SUCH.

A. SOLELY ON --.

Q. WELL, THEY CAN MENTION OTHER THINGS, LIKE HOW IS IT GOING, AND ALL.

A. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THEY TALKED ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. YOU ARE CONFIDENT THEY TALKED ABOUT IT.

A. YES, I AM, TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION.

Q. WELL, A SESSION ON THE MIDDLE EAST.
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A. I AM JUST SAYING I AM CONFIDENT THEY HAVE TALKED ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST AT A LEVEL WHICH WOULD SATISFY YOUR DESIRE FOR HIGH LEVEL.

Q. NOT MY DESIRE. HIS STATEMENT ABOUT HAVING --

A. NO. I MEAN, TO MEET YOUR CRITERIA ABOUT WHAT HIGH LEVEL WOULD BE.

Q. AT THE RECENT CONFERENCE OF THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS AT GROSSINGER'S IN NEW YORK, THE PRESIDENT, RABBI LELYVELD, OF CLEVELAND, MADE THE

FOLLOWING STATEMENT. "WE MUST CALL UPON THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO HOLD FAST TO HIS PRE-ELECTION AFFIRMATIONS WHEN HE SPEAKS FOR ONLY MINOR ADJUSTMENTS IN ISRAEL'S BORDERS; WHEN HE CALLS FOR COMPENSATION TO THOSE ARABS WHO FLED ISRAEL WITHOUT MENTIONING THE NEED FOR EQUIVALENT COMPENSATION TO THOSE 800,000 JEWS WHO FLED OR WERE THRUST OUT OF ARAB COUNTRIES; WHEN WITHOUT DEFINING HIS TERMS HE TALKS OF A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND, HE TIPS THE BALANCE OF HIS POSITION AWAY FROM HIS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED GOALS." AND THE CONCLUDING SENTENCE: "WE MUST MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY WILL NOT ACCEPT THIS BETRAYAL OF PREVIOUS PROMISES."

MY QUESTION IS: "DOES THE SECRETARY FEEL THAT RABBI LELYVELD IS IN ANY WAY INCORRECT IN THESE DETAILS OF WHAT GOVERNOR CARTER PROMISED BEFORE ELECTION, AND WHAT IS THE SECRETARY'S REACTION TO THIS STATEMENT BY THIS AMERICAN JEWISH LEADER?"

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A. I DON'T BELIEVE THE SECRETARY HAS HAD THAT PARTICULAR SET OF QUOTATIONS BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION.

Q. COULD YOU BRING IT TO HIS ATTENTION?

A. I KNOW OF NO REACTION, AND THE SECRETARY IS NOT FRANKLY IN THE BUSINESS OF REACTING ALL THE TIME TO ALL THE COMMENTS THAT ARE MADE ON FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS BY A NUMBER OF PEOPLE. I DOUBT VERY SERIOUSLY IF HE WILL HAVE A REACTION TO THAT.

Q. WELL, THIS IS ONE OF THE TOP LEADERS IN AMERICA'S JEWISH COMMUNITY, AND I WOULD IMAGINE THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD CERTAINLY NOT FAIL TO BE INTERESTED IN THIS.

A. I AM CONFIDENT THAT HE IS INTERESTED.

Q. YOU ARE SURE THAT HE IS.

A. NO, I MEAN THAT I AM CONFIDENT THAT HE IS INTERESTED IN THE VIEWS OF A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY.

Q. RIGHT. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO TAKE THIS QUOTE THAT WILL BE ON THE RECORD AND ASK THE SECRETARY IF HE HAS ANY RESPONSE TO IT?

A. I WILL TELL YOU WHAT I WILL DO, I WILL TAKE IT, AND I AM NOT IN ANY WAY SUGGESTING TO YOU THAT THERE WILL BE

ANY RESPONSE TO IT.

Q. I AM VERY DEEPLY GRATEFUL IF YOU WILL TAKE IT, AND I UNDERSTAND. I WOULD JUST LIKE TO FOLLOW THAT UP WITH ONE OTHER.
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TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE, DID THE STATE DEPARTMENT EVER ASK JORDAN--WHICH WAS CALLED UNTIL FAIRLY RECENTLY TRANSJORDAN--DID THEY EVER ASK JORDAN DURING THE 19 YEARS THAT THE ARAB LEGIONS SEIZED AND OCCUPIED THE WEST BANK, DURING THOSE 19 YEARS DID THE STATE DEPARTMENT EVER ASK THEM WHY THEY DIDN'T ESTABLISH A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA.

Q. IS THERE SOME WAY YOU COULD INQUIRE TO SEE WHETHER THE STATE DEPARTMENT EVER POSED THIS VERY, I THINK, IMPORTANT QUESTION? WERE THEY EVER ASKED ABOUT A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND?

A. YOU KNOW, ESSENTIALLY WHAT I AM SUPPOSED TO DO UP HERE IS TO TRY TO DEAL WITH CURRENT POLICY AND CURRENT

FACTS, AND I AM NOT A HISTORICAL RESEARCH BUREAU.

Q. YOU UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE ONE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT WOULD KNOW ABOUT THIS.

A. SO DOES THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

Q. WELL, IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE, YOU COULD ASK WHOEVER IS IN CHARGE OF THE MIDDLE EAST DESK, DID THE STATE DEPARTMENT EVER ASK JORDAN ABOUT A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND?

A. I'LL TELL YOU, IT IS EASIER TO ASK THAN SIT HERE AND ARGUE ABOUT IT.

Q. WHICH IS A VERY IMPORTANT MATTER. IT IS A VERY UNCLASSIFIED

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IMPORTANT QUESTION TODAY. AND I JUST WANT TO KNOW, FOLLOWING JOE'S VERY GOOD QUESTION, IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT FAIR ON THIS? IF WE ARE GOING TO PUSH ISRAEL ABOUT ALLOWING A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND, DID THEY EVER PUSH JORDAN, AND I THINK THAT IS THE PERTINENT QUESTION, AND IF THERE IS SOME WAY OF GETTING SOME PERTINENT RESPONSE, I WOULD APPRECIATE IT VERY MUCH.

A. I WILL MAKE AT LEAST THE EFFORT.

Q. I WOULD LIKE TO GO BACK TO YOUR STATEMENT ON MONDAY.

A. I WAS AFRAID YOU WOULD.

Q. IN THE HYPOTHETICAL CASE THAT NOBODY HERE IN THIS FORUM WOULD HAVE ASKED THE QUESTION ABOUT JAVITS' SPEECH OR ANYTHING TO DO WITH HIM, AT LEAST, WOULD YOU HAVE VOLUNTEERED THAT STATEMENT?

A. NO.

Q. DOES IT MEAN THAT IT IS NOT THAT IMPORTANT?

A. I THOUGHT AT THE TIME I TRIED TO SAY ON BACKGROUND WHY, YOU KNOW, AT THAT POINT, THERE WAS A KIND OF A READ-OUT. BUT I AM ANSWERING THE QUESTION DIRECTLY ENOUGH TO DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS ABOUT IT. I WAS NOT GOING TO VOLUNTEER THE STATEMENT.

Q. THIS STATEMENT WOULD HAVE STAYED IN YOUR FILES HAD NOBODY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS?

Q. ARE YOU DREAMING?

A. LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY. IN THIS OPEN, FRANK, AND
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CANDID ADMINISTRATION, ON THE STATE SIDE OF IT, I
HAVEN'T PLANTED A QUESTION YET AND I HAVE NO INTENTION OF
PLANTING ONE ON THAT SUBJECT.

Q. DICK KIND OF DREW IT OUT OF YOU WITH A TOUGH QUESTION
WHEN HE SAID "WHAT'S NEW IN THE MIDDLE EAST?"

A. LET ME SAY THAT IT TOOK ONLY HALF A BANANA TO MAKE A
SLICE.

Q. I HAVE GOT A POINT ON WHAT YOU JUST SAID, BUT LET ME
ASK YOU FIRST, DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON EGYPT
BUYING ARMS FROM CHINA?

A. NO.

Q. DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?

A. I HAVE SEEN SOME REPORTS SUGGESTING THAT THERE IS
THAT POSSIBILITY. SPARE PARTS.

Q. WILL THE SECRETARY DISCUSS THIS IN HIS ASIA REPORT?

A. I DON'T RECALL IN THE DRAFT THAT I SAW THAT HE DEALT
WITH ANY REFERENCE TO IT.

Q. I THINK YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT AN OPEN AND FRANK --
THAT THIS IS AN OPEN AND FRANK ADMINISTRATION. WHERE IS
THE FRANKNESS AND OPENNESS WHEN IT COMES TO A QUESTION
RELATED TO ARAB INTRANSIGENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST -- EGYPT,
SYRIA, SAUDI ARABIA, JORDAN. WHERE IS THE ANSWER TO
THOSE? WHERE IS THE OPENNESS AND THE FRANKNESS, NOT TO
MENTION HONESTY. YOU ARE SILENT.
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A. I AM REALLY WONDERING WHAT IT IS THAT I AM SUPPOSED TO
RESPOND ON THAT ONE.

Q. WELL, WHAT I AM ASKING YOU TO RESPOND TO IS THE
QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE COMMENTS BEING MADE BY LEADERS
OF THESE GOVERNMENTS WHICH ARE PARTY TO GENEVA. THE
PRESIDENT HAS MADE A STATEMENT ON PEACE TERMS BACK IN
MARCH. THIS IS NOW THE END OF JUNE AND THERE IS NO COMM-
ENT ABOUT THEM. BUT WE DO HAVE COMMENTS ABOUT THE ISRAE-
LIS. WHY? DO WE WANT THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT TO FALL? IS
THAT OUR PURPOSE?

A. THE ONLY THING I CAN RESPOND TO IS TO THE LAST THING,
WHICH IS: NO. THE REST OF IT IS ARGUMENTATIVE. I
WOULD BE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU --

Q. IT IS NOT ARGUMENTATIVE. I AM ASKING YOU WHY DOESN'T
THE STATE DEPARTMENT COMMENT ON THESE ISSUES? WHAT IS
ARGUMENTATIVE ABOUT THAT?

A. I THINK WE POINTED OUT BEFORE THAT WE DON'T COMMENT
ON ALL ISSUES ALL THE TIME.

Q. OF COURSE NOT. I AM TALKING ABOUT THE ARAB ISSUE.
THIS IS MY POINT. WHY NOT?

A. IT IS NOT REALLY USEFUL FOR US TO COMMENT CONSTANTLY
ON ANY SET OF ISSUES. AND I AM REALLY NOT GOING TO
GO INTO A LONG DIGRESSION ON HOW WE CHOOSE TO COMMENT OR
DON'T CHOOSE TO COMMENT.

Q. CAN I TAKE YOU BACK TO OPEC? I AM A LITTLE PUZZLED
AT YOUR LACK OF REACTION, BECAUSE IT WAS AN ANNOUNCEMENT
AND A LOT OF US ARE BEING ASKED WHAT DOES THE UNITED
STATES THINK OF THIS VERY MAJOR MOVE BY OPEC. I DON'T
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KNOW IF YOU ARE WITHHOLDING AN ASSESSMENT UNTIL YOU HAVE
PUT ONE TOGETHER, OR IF YOU SORT OF DISBELIEVE THE
REPORT, BECAUSE IT SEEMS TO BE AN ANNOUNCEMENT.

A. YES. WELL, AS SOON AS WE SEE SOMETHING MORE THAN
THAT -- I THINK WHAT WE HAVE IS THE SAME THING, ISN'T IT
ABOUT TWO PARAGRAPHS, MAYBE, JUST SAYING THAT THEY ARE
NOT GOING TO GO UP WITH THE FIVE PERCENT. YOU ARE GOING
TO HAVE A REACTION.

Q. RIGHT, BECAUSE I AM SURE YOU ARE GOING TO BE HAPPY
ABOUT THIS.

A. AT LEAST WE'LL GIVE ODDS WE AREN'T GOING TO BE
UNHAPPY, RIGHT.

Q. INSTITUTIONALLY.

A. RIGHT.

Q. APROPOS OF INTRANSIGENCE, AT THIS RABBI'S NATIONAL
CONFERENCE, SHMUEL KATZ, WHO IS THE SPECIAL EMISSARY OF
PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT.
"FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS, ISRAEL HAS BEEN PRESSURED TO
SAY WHAT IT WILL DO BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS. WE INTEND TO
MAKE NO STATEMENTS UNTIL THE ARABS ARE SEATED WITH US AT

THE PEACE TABLE. WE WILL NOT NEGOTIATE WITH THE NEW YORK
TIMES."

DOES THE SECRETARY FEEL THAT --.

A. I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT, ON THE BASIS OF TODAY'S
UNCLASSIFIED

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EDITORIAL THEY WOULD LIKE THE COMMENT.

VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE152329
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770233-1115
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197706110/baaaetdw.tel
Line Count: 773
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7f209e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 15
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2013505
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JUNE 29 1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR JUNE 29, 1977:
TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF
To: CAIRO DAMASCUS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7f209e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
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